

1. (Twice Amended) A process for the preparation of a Grignard compound, said process comprising reacting an organic halide and magnesium metal in a solvent in the presence of:

- a) a first metal-containing compound, which is a transition metal catalyst comprising:
 - i) a transition metal selected from Periodic Table groups 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11; and
 - ii) one or more elements selected from groups 14, 15, 16 or 17 bonded to said transition metal; and
- b) a second metal-containing compound, said second metal-containing compound increasing the activity of said transition metal catalyst, said second metal-containing compound comprising:
 - i) a compound of a metal of Periodic Table groups 1, 2 or 13; and
 - ii) hydrogen or one or more elements of Periodic Table groups 14, 15, 16 or 17 bonded to said metal of Periodic Table groups 1, 2 or 13.

--9. (Once Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein a Li, Na, Mg, B or Al compound bound to a hydride, halogen, alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amido or phthalocyanine group is used as said second metal-containing compound.--

C² --10. (Once Amended) The process according to claim 10, wherein an organomagnesium halide is used as said second metal-containing compound.--

C³ --15. (Once Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein in addition to said first metal-containing compound and said second metal-containing compound one or more cocatalysts are additionally employed. --

Please add the following new claim:

✓25. A process for the preparation of a Grignard compound, said process comprising reacting an organic halide and magnesium metal in a solvent in the presence of:

a) a first metal-containing compound, which is a transition metal catalyst comprising:

i) a transition metal selected from Periodic Table groups 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11; and

- ii) one or more elements selected from groups 14, 15, 16 or 17
bonded to said transition metal; and
 - b) a second metal-containing compound, said second metal-containing
compound increasing the activity of said transition metal catalyst, said
second metal-containing compound comprising:
 - i) a compound of a metal of Periodic Table groups 1, 2 or 13; and
 - ii) hydrogen or one or more elements of Periodic Table groups 14,
15 or 16 bonded to said metal of Periodic Table
groups 1, 2 or 13. ✓
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CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time,
Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Commissioner is
authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.